

Memo

To: Miscellaneous Spill File
From: Karen Chandler
Date: February 14, 2000
Subject: Strange Odors in the buildings at Don Wessel Oldsmobile (3520 S. Campbell) and Reliable Chevrolet (3655 S. Campbell)

On Saturday, February 12, 2000, at 10:30 a.m., I received a call from Derel Brunner at the service center, about strange odors in the buildings at Don Wessel Oldsmobile and Reliable Chevrolet on S. Campbell. Derel said C.U. and the Fire Department had been there to check out a "sewer odor" and wanted someone from Public Works to check it also. I went to the office and got my truck, a sniffer and sewer maps for that area. I arrived at the Oldsmobile dealership about 11:30 and talked to Mr. Walt Huber. He said there was a really strong "kerosene or diesel fuel" odor in the service garage about 7:00 a.m. that morning and they opened up the doors to clear it out. Mr. Huber himself apparently wasn't there at that time. He said that CU and the fire department had been there and down the street at the Reliable Chevrolet dealership. At 11:40 a.m. I went to the Reliable Chevrolet dealership and talked to Mr. Bill Berry, who works in the service garage. He also apparently wasn't there when they first smelled the odor and didn't know what kind of odor it was. He said Mr. Rod Torgenson had been there at the time, but wouldn't be back until Monday morning. He gave me Mr. Torgenson's home number (889-9268) and I tried to call him a couple of times, but he wasn't at home. Mr. Berry said that C.U. had been there and found a gas pipe that needed to be capped off. I checked the following manholes around these two businesses:

Wye Map	MH #	L.E.L.	Comments
S19 (NW)	6	0%	No odor
	4	0%	No odor
	A1 (Redwood St)	0%	No odor
	1	0%	No odor
	A1 (Powell St.)	0%	No odor
S18 (NE)	79	0%	No odor

I drove around Reliable's lot to see if I could find any MH's on their private line to check, but I couldn't. I returned to the office about 2:00 p.m. and called the City Utilities gas department. The dispatcher said their technicians had checked these two addresses out this morning and it wasn't natural gas. They turned it over to the Fire Department after that. I called the Fire Station at 450 W. Walnut Lawn, who responded to the complaint, and told them what I found.

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At 7:30 a.m. Monday morning, I called the Reliable Chevrolet dealership to talk to Mr. Rod Torgenson, but he wasn't there. At 2:50 p.m. Mr. Torgenson called me back. He said at 6:00 a.m. on Saturday, security personnel smelled a strong natural gas smell in the drive through service department and opened up the doors, which made all of the overhead heaters come on. They notified him at 6:15 and he arrived there at 6:30 a.m. He said he really couldn't smell anything when he got there. Mr. Torgenson also said that when a rear differential on a vehicle has burned up and they remove it, it smells like natural gas, so he checked around in the service area.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karen Chandler".

Karen Chandler
IPP

cc: Gene Pabst



